

SENATE RESOLUTION 216
By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to recognize Mr. Simon Wiesenthal on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those singular individuals who have sacrificed personal concerns to hunt down and eradicate evil in the world, thus serving justice and preventing future atrocities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simon Wiesenthal is one such estimable person who has done more to bring Nazi war criminals to justice than any other single person in history; and

WHEREAS, although he is gentleman of many talents, Mr. Wiesenthal is best known for gathering information on Nazi war criminals so that they can be brought to trial; and

WHEREAS, himself a survivor of the Holocaust, Mr. Wiesenthal was interned in several concentration camps before being liberated by American forces in 1945; and

WHEREAS, after World War II, Mr. Wiesenthal and his Jewish Documentation Center were instrumental in the capture and conviction of the main engineer of the Nazi's horrible Final Solution, Adolph Eichmann; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wiesenthal also helped find the Gestapo officer responsible for the arrest of Anne Frank; the officer's subsequent confession helped disprove claims that Anne Frank's diary was a forgery; and

WHEREAS, in the 1970s, Mr. Wiesenthal exposed several ministers in the newly formed Socialist government of Austria who had been Nazis when Austria was part of the Third Reich; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, he established the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Holocaust memorial agency, as well as a documentation center dedicated to tracking down Nazi war criminals; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wiesenthal has received numerous honors in recognition of his courage and perseverance in the face of adversity and his dedicated service in bringing Nazi war

criminals to justice, including decorations from the Austrian and French resistance movements, the Dutch Freedom Medal, the Luxembourg Freedom Medal, the United Nations League for the Help of Refugees Award, the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal presented to him by President Jimmy Carter in 1980, and the French Legion of Honor, which he received in 1986; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, Mr. Wiesenthal announced his much deserved retirement from an exemplary career in which he worked with purpose and commitment to avenge the innocent victims of the Holocaust, including many members of his own family, and bring their murderers to justice; he modestly stated that his work was done; and

WHEREAS, in February 2004, Great Britain decided to award an honorary knighthood to Mr. Wiesenthal in recognition of his "lifetime of service to humanity"; the knighthood also recognized the valuable work of the Simon Wiesenthal Center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simon Wiesenthal has done more to advance the causes of humanity and justice in this world than perhaps any other single living person, and he should be specially recognized by this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor the brilliant career and inspirational life of Simon Wiesenthal and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a most fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.